

RATIONALISM

the romantics claim it's the only way:
let spontaneity leak out of every pore.

women particularly applaud the outlook,
rarely submitting to calculated seduction
despite a flair for the maneuver themselves.

my quaint aryan and harsher eastern influences
have rendered me less than impulsive; but
if it worked for Shelley, why not a foray?

opportunity, a sinuous co-ed, sallied by.
i snaked a hundred devious yards, casually
cutting her off at the parking lot:

"hi, i saw you pass and wondered
if i could buy you a drink?"

"I don't drink!" barely breaking stride.

the failure stemmed, i'm certain,
from too much planning.

LESSON

discussing 20th Century lit, i inserted
a comment how the theory of relativity
had affected modern man's world view.

after class a co-ed who admitted she
skipped sessions to watch crucial
episodes of General Hospital asked
for more on Einstein's theory.

"i only know the basic premise:
the only constant is the speed of light.
as a result, our perception
of objects can be radically altered.
i can give you a few examples, if you'd like."

"O, no. don't bother. I just
thought there was more to it than that."

she cut the next class.